

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE
Wednesday 22nd September 2021**

Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

FISHERIES

Purpose of Report

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

UPDATE

Bank Works - Work has continued on the river banks to tidy up the banks and improve access to the fishing pegs.

Tree Works - Site visits have taken place to look at overhanging branches with it being agreed that the fisheries contractors can work on small branches and the Town Council tree gang work on the larger limbs from a boat. The work is in accordance with the Town Council's Tree Management Plan and also river conditions allowing safe access.

Mousecroft Pool - has had a considerable amount of work carried out there with assistance from the Environment Agency with a grant of £5000. In the near future three new fishing pegs for disabled anglers will be installed.

Monkmoor Fishery - 19 new fishing platforms have been installed. Work is due to commence soon on installing some new drains and improving the surface of the track to make access easier, this is being done in conjunction with the local farmer.

Oxon Pool - Since April 2019, Shrewsbury Town Fisheries has worked tirelessly to improve access, security and replacing fishing platforms to make the facility a safe place to fish, yet at the same time protecting the natural beauty and wildlife. Oxon now has its own fisheries warden who keeps an eye on the site and does routine maintenance. Issues local residents and businesses had in the past have been addressed and the progress has been considered very successful.

Reabrook fishery - It has recently had some major work done on a problematic weir which has helped improve fish passage and migration. The Severn Rivers Trust acquired a grant of £92,000 for the work, after two years of discussion with the Reabrook warden Tom Perring. This should greatly enhance the habitat for the foreseeable future.

Radbroke Pool - Improvements to pathways have been completed, some work is required to improve fishing pegs, but this will be a future project.

County Ground and Quarry - Subject to ongoing annual maintenance program of works, all pegs have now been numbered with numbers at the top of the peg, but also a number on the riverside of the pegs, so that any angler causing a problem can now be identified by the peg number allocated.

Angling competitions - have grown from strength to strength with the continuation of the Saturday opens, the 3 day river classic festival, angling trust competitions, and hopefully the fisheries will be accommodating the Midlands Angling Float Championships. The last couple of years have seen a decline in competitions due to Covid, but it does appear the competition scene is on the increase. Participants at this level usually arrive four days before to test the waters, they book local hotels and even bring families and supporters to these events, which have to be good for tourism and the local economy.

Junior Academy - This was launched recently with eleven of the 12 spaces filled within a day. The academy will provide the youngsters and their parents an introduction to fishing with a series of coaching sessions. Recently the training of eight new coaches has just been completed with relevant qualifications and security requirements, with help from the Angling Trust. A £2,000 grant was successfully applied for from the Angling Trust to help establish the Academy. The Academy will grow in phases, with scope not just for providing an introduction to Angling but also some educational content with respect to the protection of wildlife and the environment. The Shropshire Wildlife trust, the Angling Trust and other organizations will be asked to contribute towards these topics.

Bailiff/Water keepers - They continue to provide voluntary contribution to maintenance and security of the fisheries. We currently have 12 in number, and they have been kitted out with uniforms and body cameras. We work closely with the Police, Environment Agency, other Angling Clubs and local residents, this partnership has been greatly improved and is working well.

The Shrewsbury Town Fisheries wishes to thank, Shrewsbury Town Council, Shropshire Council, The Environment Agency, The Angling trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the fisheries team of volunteers and its members who have all helped improving the fisheries for the benefit of all concerned and the wider community. Membership has doubled every year and we are now just short of 1600 members, which is an achievement interested parties can be proud of.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report is noted
2. That the Fishing Co-ordinator & Bailiffs be thanked for their continued work